

November 8, 2016 8:15 PM

## 3 incumbent justices winning re-election to state's high court



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The Temple of Justice in Olympia is the meeting place of the State Supreme Court of Washington. File photo from Jan. 3, 2013. Tony Overman The Olympian

By Melissa Santos [msantos@thenewstribune.com](mailto:msantos@thenewstribune.com)  
The News Tribune

Three incumbent state Supreme Court justices were headed toward re-election Tuesday, despite outside groups spending nearly \$1.4 million on efforts to unseat them.

In early returns, incumbent Justice Barbara Madsen led Greg Zempel, the Kittitas County prosecutor, by a comfortable margin. Justice Charlie Wiggins also had a sizable lead over David Larson, a Federal Way Municipal Court judge. And Justice Mary Yu was beating David DeWolf, a recently retired law professor from Gonzaga University.

Outside expenditures in the races outpaced spending by the six candidates' campaigns, which came in at about \$800,000 combined.

Conservative groups and charter school advocates spent nearly \$1 million [to bolster the campaigns of the three challengers](#), citing disappointment in some of the high court's recent rulings.

Education reform groups were particularly unhappy with the court's 2015 decision [declaring Washington's voter-approved charter schools unconstitutional](#).

Republicans also have been dissatisfied with the court's rulings in the McCleary school-funding case, in which [the court found the state in contempt](#) over lawmakers' failure to come up with a plan to fully fund public schools by 2018.

Supporters of Larson spent another \$400,000 on independent expenditure ads attacking Wiggins, including [by blasting a majority opinion Wiggins wrote](#) overturning a child pornography conviction.

Defenders of Wiggins said the ruling was being misconstrued, and that it really dealt with protecting citizens' rights against unreasonable search and seizure.

Other political action committees spent about \$330,000 on independent ads promoting the incumbent justices' re-election. Those PACs were funded in part by the political arm of the statewide teachers union, the Washington Education Association.

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November 10, 2016 - 01:00PM ET

Supreme Court - Position 1 - General

Washington - 1246 of 2000 Precincts Reporting - 62%

Name	Party	Votes	Vote %
✓ Yu, Mary (i)	NP	1,100,264	58%
DeWolf, David	NP	792,924	42%

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Supreme Court - Position 5 - General

Washington - 1230 of 2000 Precincts Reporting - 62%

Name	Party	Votes	Vote %
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✓	Madsen, Barbara (i)	NP	1,180,637	63%
	Zempel, Greg	NP	688,265	37%

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November 10, 2016 - 01:00PM ET

Supreme Court - Position 6 - General

Washington - 1211 of 2000 Precincts Reporting - 61%

	Name	Party	Votes	Vote %
✓	Wiggins, Charlie (i)	NP	1,067,537	58%
	Larson, Dave	NP	772,300	42%

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